

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COLOMB 00036 060324Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04
NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /068 W
-----060414Z 086644 /62

R 060231Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6463
INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMCONSUL MADRAS
AMCONSUL BOMBAY
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE COLOMBO 0036

E.O. 11652:N/A
TAGS: PINT, ELAB, CE
SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT INVOKES ESSENTIAL SERVICES ORDER TO END STRIKES

REF: (A) COLOMBO 13: (B) 76 COLOMBO 4756, (C) 76 COLOMBO 4725,
(D) 76 COLOMBO 4216

1. FACED WITH THE PROSPECT OF NEW STRIKES IN THE POST
OFFICE AND AMONG GOVERNMENT CLERKS IN ADDITION TO THE CURRENT
WORK STOPPAGE IN THE RAILWAYS AND THE PORT, THE CABINET AT
A SPECIAL MEETING LATE JANUARY 4 INVOKED THE ESSENTIAL
SERVICES ORDER TO SEND THE STRIKERS BACK TO WORK EFFECTIVE
JANUARY 6. THE ORDER, WHICH IS PROMULGATED UNDER THE
EMERGENCY (IN EFFECT SINCE MARCH 1971), PROVIDES THAT
THOSE WHO DO NOT RETURN TO WORK ARE CONSIDERED TO HAVE
VACATED THEIR POSTS AND ARE LIABLE TO HAVE THEIR PROPERTY
CONFISCATED. GOVERNMENT PHYSICIANS, WHO HAVE BEEN WORKING-
TO-RULE SINCE NOVEMBER, ARE ALSO INCLUDED IN THE ORDER TO
RETURN TO WORK. THE ESSENTIAL SERVICES ORDER WAS LAST
INVOKED JUST BEFORE THE NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT CONFERENCE
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IN AUGUST 1976 TO FORCE STRIKING POST AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS
PERSONNEL TO RETURN TO WORK.

2. AT THE SAME TIME THE RETURN-TO-WORK ORDER WAS
ANNOUNCED, THE GOVERNMENT ALSO MADE A CONCESSION ON
THE ORIGINAL DEMAND OF THE RAILWAY WORKERS. IN
ADDITION TO THE 200 RUPEE END-OF-THE-YEAR SALARY

ADVANCE, THE GOVERNMENT HAS NOW OFFERED BANK LOANS WITH INTEREST TO MAKE UP THE REMAINDER OF THE REQUESTED 500 RUPEES PER WORKER. THIS IS PROBABLY UNSATISFACTORY TO THE UNIONS SINCE BANK LOANS ARE FRAUGHT WITH THE RED TAPE AND INTEREST THEY WERE SEEKING TO AVOID.

3. IN A FURTHER MOVE TO NORMALIZE LIFE IN SRI LANKA, THE PRESS ANNOUNCED THAT THE UNIVERSITY FICE-CHANCELLOR HAS PROPOSED TO THE GOVERNMENT THAT ALL SIX CAMPUSES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA BE REOPENED SOMETIME THIS MONTH. THEY HAVE BEEN CLOSED SINCE THE UPROAR OVER THE POLICE SHOOTING OF AN UNDERGRADUATE NOVEMBER 12 (REF D).

REED

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CABINET, UNION GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, DISPUTE SETTLEMENT, LABOR STRIKES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 06-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Litigation History:
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Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Reference: 77 COLOMBO 13, 76 COLOMBO 4756, 76 COLOMBO 4725, 76 COLOMBO 4216
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